

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A method of re-evaluating an order of a plurality of ads, the method comprising:

receiving the plurality of ads at a client, wherein each of the ads is associated with a respective placement value, and wherein at least one of the ads is associated with a respective weight value;

[[at]]the client[[,]] receiving a plurality of ad control files, wherein each ad control file is associated with a respective ad of the plurality of ads, wherein each ad control file identifies one or more parameters, and wherein one or more of the identified parameters is a trigger parameter;

[[at]]the client[[,]] maintaining a trigger table that includes at least one trigger parameter added to the trigger table from the ad control files, wherein each trigger parameter of the trigger table is associated with one or more ads of the plurality of ads; and

[[at]]the client[[,]] updating a parameter, checking the trigger table to determine if the updated parameter is a trigger parameter for any ad of the plurality of ads, and if so, re-evaluating the placement value of each ad of the plurality of ads, and thereafter

the client re-evaluating the order of the plurality of ads to determine a next ad to be displayed,

wherein the order of the plurality of ads is indicated by a data structure, and

wherein the client re-evaluating the order of the plurality of ads includes (i) for each of the at least one of the ads associated with a respective weight value, the client multiplying the re-evaluated placement value associated with that ad by the weight value associated with that ad so as to determine a weighted placement value for that ad, and (ii) the client placing each ad associated with a weight value on the data structure in accordance with the weighted placement value for that ad.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, [[68,]] wherein the change of viewing context in the client reflects a change in a video stream being viewed by a user of the client.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the change of viewing context in the client includes a channel change.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein re-evaluating the order of the plurality of ads includes re-ordering the data structure, and

wherein the data structure contains pointers to ads of the plurality of ads.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein re-evaluating the order of the plurality of ads further includes evaluating an interpreted placement rule for at least some of the ads.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the client is a video replay system.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the next ad to be displayed is an ad at the top of the data structure after re-evaluating the order of the plurality of ads.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 61, wherein receiving the ad request includes receiving the ad request asynchronously to receiving a ~~the~~ notification of a ~~the~~ change of viewing context in the client.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein sending the determined next ad to be displayed includes sending an ad on the top of the data structure.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein sending the determined next ad to be displayed includes sending a next ad having a highest

weighted placement value in accordance with a placement rule and a weight rule of the ad.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising:
re-evaluating the ordering of the plurality of ads after an ad is returned in response to the ad request.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the next ad to be displayed is a full-page ad.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the next ad to be displayed is a banner ad.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the next ad to be displayed is an ad displayable in a predetermined location on a display device.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each ad of the plurality of ads has an associated rule set containing a placement rule and at least one local parameter value.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one ad of the plurality of ads has an associated placement rule.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one ad of the plurality of ads has an associated weight rule.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one ad of the plurality of ads has an associated expiration rule.

24-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising:
at the client, entering a pause mode to pause currently viewed programming,
wherein sending the determined next ad includes sending the determined next ad
when the client enters the pause mode.

32-37. (Cancelled).

38. (Currently amended) A method of displaying an ad on a client-side machine, comprising:

storing a plurality of ads on the client-side machine, wherein each of the ads is associated with a respective placement value, and wherein at least one of the ads is associated with a respective weight value;

[[at]]the client-side machine[[,]] receiving a plurality of ad control files, wherein each ad control file is associated with a respective ad of the plurality of ads, wherein each ad control file identifies one or more parameters, and wherein one or more of the identified parameters is a trigger parameter;

[[at]]the client-side machine[[,]] maintaining a trigger table that includes at least one trigger parameter added to the trigger table from the ad control files, wherein each trigger parameter of the trigger table is associated with one or more ads of the plurality of ads; and

[[at]]the client-side machine[[,]] updating a parameter, checking the trigger table to determine if the updated parameter is a trigger parameter for any ad of the plurality of ads, and if so, re-evaluating the placement value of each ad of the plurality of ads, and thereafter

the client-side machine re-evaluating an order of the plurality of ads so as to determine a next ad to be displayed; and

displaying the next ad to be displayed when the client-side machine encounters an ad display opportunity,

wherein the order of the plurality of ads is indicated by a data structure, and

wherein the client-side machine re-evaluating the order of the ads includes: (i) for each of the at least one of the ads associated with a respective weight value, the client-side machine multiplying the re-evaluated placement value associated with that ad by the weight value associated with that ad so as to determine a weighted placement value for that ad, and (ii) the client-side machine placing each ad associated with a weight value on the data structure in accordance with the weighted placement value for that ad.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the ad display opportunity occurs when a user pauses a currently viewed program.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the ad display opportunity is display of a programming guide.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the ad display opportunity is display of a zone programming guide.

42-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently amended) A computer program product, comprising instructions executable by a processor and stored on a computer readable medium, to effect a method comprising:

storing a plurality of ads, wherein each of the ads is associated with a respective placement value, and wherein at least one of the ads is associated with a respective weight value;

storing ~~receiving~~ a plurality of ad control files, wherein each ad control file is associated with a respective ad of the plurality of ads, wherein each ad control file identifies one or more parameters, and wherein one or more of the identified parameters is a trigger parameter;

maintaining a trigger table that includes at least one trigger parameter added to the trigger table from the ad control files, wherein each trigger parameter of the trigger table is associated with one or more ads of the plurality of ads;

updating a parameter, checking the trigger table to determine if the updated parameter is a trigger parameter for any ad of the plurality of ads, and if so, re-evaluating the placement value of each ad of the plurality of ads, and thereafter

re-evaluating an order of the plurality of ads to determine a next ad to be displayed;

receiving an ad request from a requesting application; and

in response to receiving the ad request, sending the determined next ad to be displayed to the requesting application,

wherein the order of the ads is indicated by a data structure, and

wherein re-evaluating the order of the plurality of ads includes: (i) for each of the at least one of the ads associated with a respective weight value, multiplying the re-evaluated placement value associated with that ad by the weight value associated with that ad so as to determine a weighted placement value for that ad, and (ii) placing each ad associated with a weight value on the data structure in accordance with the weighted placement value for that ad.

50. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 49,
~~wherein the client is a video replay system, and~~
wherein the computer readable medium is within a ~~[[the]]~~ video replay system.

51. (Currently amended) A computer program product, comprising instructions executable by a processor and stored on a computer readable medium, to effect a method comprising:

storing a plurality of ads on a video replay unit, wherein each of the ads is associated with a respective placement value, and wherein at least one of the ads is associated with a respective weight value;

~~storing~~ ~~receiving~~ a plurality of ad control files, wherein each ad control file is associated with a respective ad of the plurality of ads, wherein each ad control file identifies one or more parameters, and wherein one or more of the identified parameters is a trigger parameter;

maintaining a trigger table that includes at least one trigger parameter added to the trigger table from the ad control files, wherein each trigger parameter of the trigger table is associated with one or more ads of the plurality of ads;

updating a parameter, checking the trigger table to determine if the updated parameter is a trigger parameter for any ad of the plurality of ads, and if so, re-evaluating the placement value of each ad of the plurality of ads, and thereafter

re-evaluating an order of the plurality of ads so as to determine a next ad to be displayed; and

encountering an ad display opportunity and responsively displaying the next ad to be displayed,

wherein the order of the plurality of ads is indicated by a data structure, and

wherein re-evaluating the order of the plurality of ads includes: (i) for each of the at least one of the ads associated with a respective weight value, multiplying the re-

evaluated placement value associated with that ad by the weight value associated with that ad so as to determine a weighted placement value for that ad, and (ii) placing each ad associated with a weight value on the data structure in accordance with the weighted placement value for that ad.

52. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 51, wherein the ad display opportunity occurs when a user pauses a currently viewed program.

53. (Withdrawn) The computer program product of claim 51, wherein the ad display opportunity is display of a programming guide,

54. (Withdrawn) The computer program product of claim 51, wherein the ad display opportunity is display of a zone programming guide.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the weight value associated with at least one of one of the ads associated with a weight value is a constant weight or an increasing weight proportionate to time passed.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the weight value associated with at least one of one of the ads associated with a weight value is a constant weight or an increasing weight proportionate to time passed.

57-58. (Cancelled)

59. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 49, wherein the weight value associated with at least one of one of the ads associated with a weight value is a constant weight or an increasing weight proportionate to time passed.

60. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 51, wherein the weight value associated with at least one of one of the ads associated with a weight value is a constant weight or an increasing weight proportionate to time passed.

61. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, [[68,]]further comprising:
receiving an ad request from a requesting application; and
in response to receiving the ad request, sending to the requesting application the determined next ad to be displayed.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the data structure is a heap data structure.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the data structure is a heap data structure.

64-65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 49, wherein the data structure is a heap data structure.

67. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 51, wherein the data structure is a heap data structure.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one trigger parameter of the trigger table is associated with two or more ads.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a trigger parameter of the plurality of trigger parameters is selected from the group consisting of (i) a parameter that indicates time of day, (ii) a parameter indicating day of week, (iii) a parameter indicating day of month, (iv) a parameter indicating day of year, and (v) a parameter indicating month of year.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one ad control file of the plurality of ad control files is encoded in XML format.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the ad control files comprises a rule set that describes the ad associated with the ad control file.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 71, wherein a rule set of a given ad control file comprises a rule for determining an expiration date of the ad associated with the ad control file.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:
after displaying the next ad to be displayed, logging information at the client-side machine, wherein the logged information indicates that next ad to be displayed has been displayed, and
passing the logged information from the client-side machine to a server that provided the plurality of ads to the client-side machine.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1,
wherein each ad control file includes an ad placement value rule, and
wherein re-valuating the placement value of each ad is carried out in accordance with the ad placement value rule in the ad control file associated with the ad.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38,
wherein each ad control file includes an ad placement value rule, and
wherein re-valuating the placement value of each ad is carried out in accordance with the ad placement value rule in the ad control file associated with the ad.

76. (Currently amended) The computer program product ~~method~~ of claim 49,
wherein each ad control file includes an ad placement value rule, and

wherein re-valuating the placement value of each ad is carried out in accordance with the ad placement value rule in the ad control file associated with the ad.

77. (Currently amended) The computer program product ~~method~~ of claim 51, wherein each ad control file includes an ad placement value rule, and wherein re-valuating the placement value of each ad is carried out in accordance with the ad placement value rule in the ad control file associated with the ad.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein client receives the plurality of ads and the plurality of ad control files from a remote server.

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein client receives the plurality of ads and the plurality of ad control files from a remote server.

80. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein each respective weight value is a constant weight value.

81. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein each respective weight value is a constant weight value.

82. (New) The computer program product of claim 49, wherein each respective weight value is a constant weight value.

83. (New) The computer program product of claim 51,
wherein each respective weight value is a constant weight value.